

June 20, 2000

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE ACT OF 2000

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the International Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Act of 2000, legislation I introduced today to make combating corruption a key principle of U.S. development assistance.

This bill will help to accomplish two objectives of pivotal importance to the United States. By making anti-corruption procedures a key principle of development assistance, it will push developing countries further along the path to democracy and the establishment of a strong civil society. Moreover, by helping these countries root out corruption, bribery and unethical business practices, we can help create a level playing field for U.S. companies doing business abroad.

According to officials at the U.S. Department of Commerce, during the past five years, U.S. firms lost nearly \$25 billion dollars-worth of contracts to foreign competitors offering bribes.

Bribery impedes trade and hurts our economic interests by providing an unfair advantage to those countries which tolerate bribery of foreign officials. By making anti-corruption procedures a key component of our foreign aid programs, this bill will help those countries to set up more transparent business practices, such as modern commercial codes and intellectual property rights, which are vital to enhancing economic growth and decreasing corruption at all levels of society.

My bill requires U.S. foreign assistance to be used to fight corruption at all levels of government and in the private sector in countries that have persistent problems with corruption—particularly where the United States has a significant economic interest.

The United States has a long history of leadership on fighting corruption. We were the first to criminalize international bribery through the enactment of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977. Moreover, United States leadership was instrumental in the passage of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. Enactment of this bill would be a logical next step.

Corruption is antithetical to democracy. It chips away at the public's trust in government, while stifling economic growth and deterring foreign economic investment. In addition, corruption poses a major threat to development. It undermines democracy and good governance, reduces accountability and representation, and inhibits the development of a strong civil society.

This bill takes a comprehensive approach to combating corruption and promoting good governance. By outlining a series of initiatives to be carried out by both USAID and the Treasury Department, the legislation addresses the political, social and economic aspects of corruption.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

As the largest trader in the global economy, it in the United States' national interest to fight corruption and promote transparency and good governance. Not only does it help to promote economic growth and strengthen democracy, but it helps to create a level playing field for U.S. companies that do business overseas.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE KEELY JARDELL SCHOOL OF DANCE

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. NICK LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding accomplishment of the young ladies of Keely Jardell's School of Dance in Nederland, Texas. The school consists of approximately 500 students from throughout the area of southeast Texas ranging from ages six to eighteen years of age. The school focuses not only on dancing, but also on the importance of discipline and character. In addition to studying in the Jardell School of Dance, the students also participate in academic, athletic, and religious activities within the community. Practicing 12–15 hours a week, these young ladies have demonstrated an ability to balance their responsibilities and excel in them with grace. Lessons like these give the students of the Keely Jardell School of Dance skills that will be invaluable to them as they encounter challenges in their futures. These young ladies serve as role models to their peers and to members of the community as well.

Recently, sixty-nine of these students participated in regional competitions in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in Houston, and across the state of Texas. Members of the team devoted countless hours to perfecting their craft; their efforts have payed off. At regional competitions, the school was awarded the highest score, judge's choice, choreography, overall high score, and spirit awards. Their outstanding performances at the regional level has qualified them for the National Competition in San Antonio, Texas this summer. The prestige of the school and its talented performers is known well throughout the nation. In late 1999, an invitation was received inviting the girls to perform in Washington D.C. and in New York City during the month of July, 2000. The members of the school have graciously honored the request and will be performing Sunday July 2nd at 5:30 p.m. at the Post Office Pavilion, here in Washington. I urge all who have the opportunity to enjoy a truly amazing show worthy of your time.

After the appearance in Washington, the performers will attend special dance classes at the Broadway Dance Center in New York City. Numerous fund-raisers and community events are being staged to defray the expenses of the trip. It has been a total commitment of all involved, but well worth the work. The members of the Keely Jardell School of Dance have relentlessly committed themselves to perfecting their talents in preparation for the National Competition.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to have the honor of commending the students of the

Keely Jardell School of Dance on their astounding achievements and abilities. Young people such as these should serve as examples to America of the extraordinary breed of leaders it can expect in its future. These young ladies deserve our attention, support, and best wishes as they demonstrate the remarkable product of their labor and talent.

50TH BIRTHDAY OF THE MANCHESTER, NH, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Manchester VA Medical Center, located in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, on the occasion of the Hospital's 50th birthday, July 2, 2000. This outstanding facility continues to provide exemplary health care to thousands of veterans who have served America with distinction and honor. As the hospital celebrates its 50th year, I hope we will also take a moment to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those service men and women. The devoted staff of the Hospital, including Public Relations Director Paul Lamberti who provided me with an extensive historical background of the Center, also deserves special thanks and appreciation for their dedication to the health care of our veterans.

The establishment of the Manchester VA Medical Center began at the conclusion of World War I with the World War Veterans' Legislation Subcommittee on Hospitals' recommendation that the New Hampshire project be funded. Congressman Fletcher Hale followed suit with legislation seeking Presidential approval for the construction of a facility to treat veterans throughout northern New England. Specifically, the measure called for "a modern, sanitary, fireproof, two-hundred bed capacity hospital plant for the diagnosis, care, and treatment of general and medical and surgical disabilities and to provide Government care for the increasing load of mentally afflicted veterans regardless of whether said disability developed prior to January 1, 1925, at a cost not to exceed \$1,500,000."

Final legislative approval came in 1945, and in 1946, after the end of World War II, the United States Government acquired a parcel of land, previously owned by Governor Frederick F. Smyth, that would become the site for the Hospital. Smyth served from 1866 to 1880 on the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and was well acquainted with the needs of veterans everywhere. The Smyth Tower, the replica of a famous Scottish lookout, can be found on the grounds today. The structure was erected by Smyth in 1888 and is named as an Historic Site on the National Register.

Construction of the VA Medical Center began in 1948 and two years later, on July 2, 1950, the VA Medical Center was officially dedicated. In the following decade, staff attended to the health care needs of approximately 23,500 patients.

The VA Medical Center joined with Harvard Medical School to become a training facility for surgical residents in the late 1960's and has remained an active teaching hospital for Harvard and Dartmouth Medical School residents. Through the years, students aspiring to become nurses, dentists, physical therapists, physician assistants, occupational therapists, optometrists, medical assistants, dieticians, and pharmacists, have found a diverse clinical experience there.

Recognizing the need to address the long-term residential health care need of aging veterans, the Hospital dedicated a Nursing Home Care Unit in the late 1970's. Expansion continued in 1977 with the groundbreaking for a new Ambulatory Care wing.

Outpatient care became an important priority in the years that followed. Those patients requiring specialty care were previously required to travel to other VA hospitals in the region to receive care. After determining veterans should not have to travel long distances for their care, the staff formed specialty clinics including Orthopaedics, Optometry, Audiology, Neurology, Pain, Ear, Nose, and Throat.

Locally accessible care continues today in the form of Center-sponsored health screenings in local communities throughout the state. The Manchester VA Hospital also serves as a research center for a large number of health care programs. Of note is the facility's Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder research center which has received both national and international recognition for its work.

Although New Hampshire's veterans' population has decreased, their health care needs remain a high priority. These men and women sacrificed a great deal for each and every American and their needs continue to be met today. Community Based Outreach Clinics can be found throughout the state including the communities of Tilton and Newington and future facilities are planned for Lancaster, Conway, Wolfeboro, and Keene.

Through its changes, the VA's importance holds strong with a purpose "to serve those who have served us well," its commitment "to advocate for the total well-being of veterans," and its promise "to be there when veterans need us."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 293, I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following votes:

On the motion that the Committee of Whole House on the State of the Union Rise, introduced by the gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN, I would have voted "yea."

On the amendment to the rider on H.R. 4635, regarding the use of Veterans' Administration funds for tobacco litigation, introduced by the gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2000 and in the early hours of June 16, 2000, I was traveling to my District, and therefore unable to cast my votes on rollcall numbers 280 through 291. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 281, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, and 290; and "nay" on rollcall votes 280, 282, 288, 289, and 291.

CONGRATULATING THE LA LAKERS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Los Angeles Lakers on winning the National Basketball Association Championship. As a native of Los Angeles, I could not be more proud of our team's achievement. The Los Angeles Lakers have a history of phenomenal success and great basketball. Yesterday's win was their sixth championship in two decades. The Lakers are stars, and they have dominated the game of basketball. They have made us proud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded on rollcall votes 292 and 293 on Monday, June 19, 2000. Had I been present on Monday, June 19, 2000, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 292, a motion to rise offered by Representative WAXMAN. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 293, an amendment offered by Representative WAXMAN, to H.R. 4365, the Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill.

I have consistently voted to eliminate government funding for tobacco programs and increase government efforts to reduce the use of tobacco in our society. I will continue to support efforts to keep tobacco companies accountable for the health care costs associated with tobacco related illnesses. In particular, we

must continue to educate our children on the hazards of tobacco use and enforce laws that curb underage smoking.

TRIBUTE TO PANORAMA AND ALEXANDER POLOVETS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. BERMAN, and I wish to pay tribute to a remarkable man and his equally remarkable newspaper. In July of this year, "Panorama," The Russian-language newspaper which is the brainchild of Alexander Polovets, will celebrate its 20th anniversary, its 1,000th edition and the 65th birthday of its editor-in-chief, Alexander Polovets.

In 1978 Alexander Polovets started to publish a weekly Russian-language insert in a local Anglo-Jewish newspaper. It met with instant popularity and in 1980 Alexander published the first issue of "Panorama," an independent weekly publication. "Panorama" went on to become the largest independent Russian-language weekly outside of Russia and certainly one of the most influential voices in the Russian-speaking community.

"Panorama's" goal is to provide a forum for original materials of authors, thinkers and public figures in the United States and abroad. Equally important, it serves the needs of the growing Russian-speaking community in the United States. "Panorama" offers a unique opportunity to share information about life in the United States, helping to acclimate recent immigrants and to offer a focal point for cooperation within the Russian community.

"Panorama" has published the works of some of the best known contemporary authors and thinkers, organized and promoted U.S. concerts, and raised important social issues such as welfare reform, immigration, crime and housing. It has featured interviews with prominent national and international figures and most recently it was instrumental in making the 2000 Census campaign a success in the immigrant community.

The publication is used as reference material by hundreds of universities, libraries and social agencies. Its subscribers are worldwide, as is its staff of reporters. It is no surprise that in 1999 Alexander Polovets was named one of the "100 Most Influential Jews in Los Angeles" by the authoritative "Jewish Journal." "Panorama" is the resource for anyone wishing to reach the Russian-speaking community.

We ask our colleagues to join us in congratulating Alexander Polovets and "Panorama" for enriching our community for twenty wonderful years. Happy 65th Birthday to Alexander and best wishes for continued success.